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About the monthly Water Level bulletin

August Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term August average:

Great Lakes Basin	93%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	51%
Lake Superior	98%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	111%
Lake Ontario	57%

Note: These figures

LEVEL news

Volume 10, Number 9 **September 10, 2002**

Lake Ontario's Level Experiences Notable Decline

Lake Superior Likely Near Its Peak Level for the Year

Water levels on lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario continued to decline from July to August. While levels on lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie fell by near-average amounts, the drop in Lake Ontario's level was more than twice the usual amount.

Lake Superior's monthly mean water level rose 4 cm from July to August. Although this increase in levels was about average, a 1 cm decline in daily levels was experienced from the beginning to the end of August suggesting that the lake is near its peak for the year.

The levels of lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie fell by near-average amounts from July to August declining by 1, 5, and 9 cm, respectively. Lake Ontario levels declined 28 cm from July to August, more than twice its usual amount and a few centimetres more than had been expected. The larger than average decline resulted from the combination of lower than average supplies and higher than average outflows.

The levels on all lakes are now below their long-term averages. At the beginning of September, lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 17 and 27 cm below average, respectively. Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario began the month 8, 11, and 5 cm below average, respectively.

Lake Superior is expected to remain at about the same level in September as it was in August. The levels of lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are expected to continue to decline.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 6.05 m during August; 50 cm above chart datum, but 35 cm below the 1967-2001 average level for the month.

Lake Ontario Update

Since reaching its seasonal peak in June about 30 cm above average, Lake Ontario's water level has been declining at a faster than usual rate due to the hot, dry weather conditions and outflows higher than those specified by the

are preliminary.

August Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term August average

Lake Superior	94%
Lake Erie	93%
Lake Huron	91%
Lake Ontario	106%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

lake's regulation plan. By late August, the lake's level had returned to average and at the beginning of September was 5 cm below average.

This year to-date, the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, which oversees Lake Ontario outflow regulation, has authorized eight short-term increases in the Lake Ontario's outflow to meet critical hydropower needs. These increases, typically lasting four to eight hours, enabled the hydropower entities in the St. Lawrence River to increase their power generation to help meet increased electrical demand during heat wave conditions. The Board also authorized two flow increases, one just prior to and the other immediately following the Labour Day weekend, to assist navigation at the Port of Montreal. These short-term flow increases, along with the Board's program of outflows more than specified by the regulation plan during the summer, have reduced the 7.9 cm of water that the Board had previously retained on the lake to zero centimetres.

Public Meeting Announcement

There will be an open house on Wednesday, October 30, 2002 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Ramada Inn located at 11 Bay Bridge Road in Belleville, Ontario to discuss the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study. The open house will be hosted by the Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG), on behalf of the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study Team and is supported by Quinte Watershed Cleanup Inc. and the Lower Trent, Cataraqui and Toronto Conservation Authorities.

The PIAG is a committee of 22 U.S. and Canadian volunteers working to ensure effective two-way communication with the public and the study team. There is a great deal of work ahead to complete the 5-year project and public participation is critical to the evaluation and assessment of current water level regulation in the basin.

For more information about the study visit: Study's website. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Morelli in Canada at (613) 992-5727 or Arleen Kreusch in the U.S. at (716) 879-4438.

Ever Wondered Why?

Every now an again LEVELnews reminds its readers to check the Canadian Hydrographic Service's Monthly Water Levels Bulletin for the latest six-month water level forecast. Have you ever wondered why the current edition of the Bulletin has the previous month's date on it? The reason the bulletin is dated one month earlier than the month it is produced and distributed in is the result of a naming convention frequently used for products that contain water level or similar types of data. The August 2002 date on the current bulletin (that is, the one produced and distributed during September) signifies that it includes recorded water level data up to and including August 2002.

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URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/ln200209_e.html